

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Please replace paragraph [0037] with the following amended paragraph:

[0037] More particularly, and for each reconstructed image from method 100, an aspect ratio of the scanned object in two orthogonal directions (e.g., horizontal and vertical directions) is determined. The aspect ratio can be calculated by taking the ratio of the intensity of the horizontal projection over the vertical projection. If the resulting ratio is less than unity, the ~~ratio~~ ratio of the intensity of the vertical projection over the horizontal projection is used. The projection is calculated by summing the reconstructed images in the horizontal and vertical directions. Therefore, two one-dimensional projections are obtained from the two-dimensional image. To reduce the impact of noise, the average of the neighboring n samples around the projection samples with the maximum value are used. The ratio, r, is used partially for the determination of the noise reduction, since the higher the value of r, the more noise variation will be present in the reconstructed images from slice to slice.

Please replace paragraph [0027] with the following amended paragraph:

[0027] In one embodiment, computer 36 includes a device 50, for example, a floppy disk drive, CD-ROM drive, DVD drive, magnetic optical disk (MOD) device, or any other digital device including a network connecting device such as an Ethernet device for reading instructions and/or data from a computer-readable medium 52, such as, but not limited to, a floppy disk, a CD-ROM, a DVD ~~or an other digital source such as a network or the Internet,~~ DVD, a network, and/or the Internet, ~~as well as yet to be developed digital means~~. In another embodiment, computer 36 executes instructions stored in firmware (not shown). Computer 36 is programmed to perform functions described herein, and as used herein, the term computer is not limited to just those integrated circuits referred to in the art as computers, but broadly refers to computers, processors, microcontrollers, microcomputers, programmable logic controllers, application specific integrated circuits, and other programmable circuits, and these terms are used interchangeably herein. Although the specific embodiment mentioned above refers to a third generation CT system, the methods described herein

equally apply to fourth generation CT systems (stationary detector - rotating x-ray source) and fifth generation CT systems (stationary detector and x-ray source). Additionally, it is contemplated that the benefits of the invention accrue to imaging modalities other than CT. Additionally, although the herein described methods and apparatus are described in a medical setting, it is contemplated that the benefits of the invention accrue to non-medical imaging systems such as those systems typically employed in an industrial setting or a transportation setting, such as, for example, but not limited to, a baggage scanning system for an airport or other transportation center, and that addition 23 is used for objects other than organs.